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NEWS

Air Pollution

China's Steel Mill Output Kept in Check by Pollution Probes

China's steel mills were unable to grow supply in November to take advantage of higher prices as the top global producer began stringent environmental checks....

Air Pollution

Transportation Guidance Won't Lead to Pollution Problems: EPA

Updated guidance on modeling emissions from new transportation infrastructure projects will not hurt the ability of areas to meet national standards for particulate matter, the Environmental Protection Agency told a federal appeals court...

Biotechnology

Brazilian Agency Approves Dicamba-Resistant GM Soy Seed

Brazil's body for licensing genetically modified organisms approved the use of soy seeds developed by Monsanto that are resistant to the herbicide dicamba, a first in the country. ...

Chemicals

Help on the Way for Navigating California Safe Products Rules

California manufacturers and other regulated entities will soon get help navigating the evaluation processes required under rules intended to get harmful chemicals out of consumer products. ...

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Chemicals

Trade Groups Split on Chemicals, Trump's Pick for EPA

Trade associations have divergent views on whether the doubts on climate change voiced by Scott Pruitt, President-elect Donald Trump's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, may undermine public confidence in the scientific...

Climate Change

Energy Dept. Rejects Trump Request to Name Climate Change Staff

The Energy Department rejected a request from President-elect Donald Trump's transition team for the names of workers who played a role in implementing President Barack Obama's climate agenda....

Climate Change

EU Reports Drop in Flourinated Gases

The European Union's production of, and trade in, fluorinated gases declined in 2015 when measured in terms of the global warming impact of the gases, according to a Dec. 13 analysis of data submitted under EU law....

Climate Policy

Airline Demand for Carbon May Drop 66% if EU Adopts Global Deal

Airline demand for carbon permits and credits will probably plunge by two-thirds if European regulators allow internal flights to be covered by a planned international accord on aviation pollution instead of the region's own emissions...

Climate Regulation

February Argument Set for EPA Refrigerant Phaseout Rule

A federal appellate court will hear argument Feb. 17, 2017, on an Environmental Protection Agency rule to phase out the use of some refrigerants that are also potent greenhouse gases (Mexichem Fluor, Inc. v. EPA , D.C. Cir., No. 15-1328, 12/13/16)....

Climate Regulation

Oil, Gas Companies May Offer Methane Data Under EPA Proposal

Oil and gas companies could set and disclose unique methane emissions reduction targets to the Environmental Protection Agency as part of a voluntary program's proposed information collection, a soon-to-be-published notice said....

Coal Mining

Trump's Interior Pick Opposes Coal Leasing Rethink

President-elect Donald Trump's reported choice to head the Interior Department signals that Trump is serious about ending the Obama administration's moratorium on federal coal leasing....

Energy

Fewer Efficiency Standards Under Trump, Stakeholders Predict

Energy efficiency standards—one of the hallmarks of the Obama administration’s climate strategy—likely won’t be pursued as energetically in the Trump administration, stakeholders predict....

Energy

Germany’s Next Nuclear Headache Is Over Cash or Reactor Life

Germany faces a choice between extending the lives of reactors or paying hundreds of millions in cash to some of the nation’s biggest utilities....

Energy

Perry Said to Be Offered Energy Secretary’s Position by Trump

Donald Trump has chosen Rick Perry to be Energy Secretary, putting the one-time presidential candidate and former oil-state governor atop the agency charged with charting the nation’s energy future, according to two people familiar...

Energy

Rick Perry Leaves ‘Mixed Legacy’ of Oil, Gas, Wind in Texas

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) pushed for investments that created the wind boom in Texas, but his support for fossil fuels leaves Texas energy observers questioning whether he would back renewables as Energy secretary....

Energy

Tillerson Pick Stokes Concerns Over Energy-Heavy Diplomacy

Global energy partnerships may eclipse bedrock humanitarian and development policy if oil mogul Rex Tillerson, President-elect Donald Trump’s pick to head the State Department, is confirmed, lawmakers and former Obama administration...

Energy

Trump’s Pipeline Promises at the Mercy of Hard-to-Change Agency

Donald Trump has said he’ll speed up approvals for energy infrastructure projects when he gets to the White House. Standing at least partly in the way—a panel of officials he’ll have little sway over....

Hydraulic Fracturing

Basics of EPA Fracking Risk Report Changed Little, Critics Say

An Environmental Protection Agency report on hydraulic fracturing does not change the assessment of fracking risks to drinking water in any basic way, an oil and gas association executive said Dec. 13....

Hydraulic Fracturing

EPA Toughens View of Fracking as Danger to Drinking Water

The Environmental Protection Agency in a widely anticipated report Dec. 13 backed away from its earlier conclusion that

hydraulic fracturing has not caused "widespread, systemic" damage to drinking water, drawing a swift...

International Issues

Trump Picks Exxon Mobil CEO Tillerson for Secretary of State

Exxon Mobil Corp. Chief Executive Officer Rex Tillerson will be nominated as President-elect Donald Trump's secretary of state, setting up a potential confirmation battle with U.S. lawmakers who have questioned his relationship...

Natural Resources

Trump Said to Pick Former Seal, Montana Lawmaker for Interior

President-elect Donald Trump has picked Montana Representative Ryan Zinke, a Republican who gets low marks from environmental groups but has bucked his party to protect public land, as his nominee for Interior secretary, according to two sources...

Oil & Gas

Exxon CEO-In-Waiting to Inherit Rex Tillerson's Mixed Legacy

The man poised to replace Rex Tillerson as the leader of America's most influential energy giant helped transform Exxon Mobil Corp.'s refining business from a poor cousin of oil production to the primary profit...

Oil & Gas

Trump's State Pick Has Potential \$7B Conflict of Interest

Donald Trump's nominee for secretary of state, Exxon Mobil Corp. Chief Executive Officer Rex Tillerson, heads a company that has won \$6.9 billion in U.S. federal contracts since fiscal 2006, according to Bloomberg Government's...

Oil & Gas

Trump's Tillerson Pick Gives Keystone XL Friend in Washington

President-elect Donald Trump's plan to put a supporter of the Keystone XL pipeline into a crucial decision-making position may give the controversial pipeline a leg up....

Pesticides

Bayer-Monsanto Deal Bad for Farmers: Environmental Group

Bayer AG's \$66 billion takeover of Monsanto Co. would increase the use of "dangerous toxic pesticides" and the Justice Department should block the deal, an environmental advocacy group told the government in a Dec. 12 letter....

Pesticides

EU Panel Notes Progress on Glyphosate Hazard Assessment

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) said it was on track Dec. 13 to deliver a recommendation by late 2017 on a European Union hazard classification for glyphosate, the active chemical in Monsanto's Roundup weed killer and the world's...

Pipeline Safety

New Jersey Utility Uses Google Car to Stop Gas Leaks for Less

New Jersey's largest utility owner said it's plugging natural gas leaks faster and for less money by deploying a Google Street View car from Alphabet Inc. that can sniff out the fuel seeping from its pipeline system....

Renewable Energy

Climate Skeptic Perry Seen as Unlikely Ally to Clean Energy

Rick Perry, said to be Donald Trump's pick to lead the U.S. Energy Department, has deep oil industry ties and longstanding doubts about global warming. Yet clean-energy advocates see a potential ally....

Renewable Energy

U.K. Tidal-Power Plan Put at Risk by Threat to Salmon and Trout

U.K. plans to generate power by building a 1.3 billion pound (\$1.7 billion) tidal lagoon off the South Wales coast are in doubt after a government-backed body said the project could kill thousands of migratory fish....

Research

Monsanto CEO: Shareholders Approved Bayer Research Strategy

Shareholders backing Bayer-Monsanto deal Dec. 13 in St. Louis reflects approval of the companies' belief that a combination will spur innovation and deliver new products faster, Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant said by phone. ...

Superfund

Montana Newspaper Can't Access Superfund Negotiations: Judge

A Montana newspaper waited too long to seek access to confidential negotiations over the cleanup of the Anaconda Copper mining site, the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana said Dec. 7 (United States v. Atl. Richfield Co. , 2016 BL...

Water Pollution

Navajo Nation Seeks \$160 Million in Damages From Gold King Mine Spill

The Navajo Nation is seeking \$160 million to offset damages and ongoing harm caused by the Environmental Protection Agency-triggered Gold King Mine spill in Colorado in 2015. ...

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